Avoided Emissions of CO2: Up to 500 lbs./YR

# \$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

## DIG IN: IT'S A GREAT TIME TO PLANT

Desert Plants are Great at Multi-tasking

Perhaps you're ready to turn that bit of grass or gravel into a dynamic landscape with year-round color, add a shady retreat to the backyard, or create a habitat for birds and butterflies? Whatever your goals, desert plants are great at multi-tasking and can provide many functions in your landscape. Here are some great resources to help.

Don't miss upcoming plant sales!

#### LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR THE ARIZONA DESERT

This booklet features more than 200 low-water-use plants that thrive in our desert climate by tolerating our dryness, heat, alkaline soils and even winter frost. Charts in the book highlight plant details, and colorful photos help with your selection. You can find it at local nurseries, City of Mesa libraries or customer service centers, or call (480) 644-3306 for a copy.

### **ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS**

It's easy to get butterflies, birds and hummingbirds to your yard. You just have to pick the plants they like. Plant them and they will come! Make your landscape wildlife-friendly by providing a water source, shelter or nesting sites, and skip the pesticides. Find bird and butterfly plant lists at our website below.



A Verdin, an active southwest songbird, enjoys the flowering stock of a Red Yucca.

#### GRASS-TO-XERISCAPE REBATE

Would \$500 help with your landscape efforts? The Mesa offers a rebate to help customers reduce their landscape water use by half or more by replacing their water-thirsty lawns with a Xeriscape (a term for landscape design with water in mind). Call (480) 644-3306.

### **SPRING PLANT SALES**

Be on the lookout for these great sales around the valley:

- **Desert Botanical Garden:** March 20 (members only) 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 21 & 22 (open to the public) 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. & 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Boyce Thompson Arboretum:** March 13-29, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Desert Willows attract hummingbirds and bloom all summer.

## **\$TART \$AVING**

You can start saving by planting water-wise, seasonal plants and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.



